THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is an overall shortage of fodder in the country as per the projected estimates by the Working Group of Animal Husbandry for 10th Plan. The total availability of fodder is 833 million tonnes consisting of 390 million tonnes green fodder and 443 million tonnes dry fodder.

(c) to (e) The total milch cattle (cow and buffalo) are about 103787 (000 nos.) as per the projection of 2002-03. There is an overall shortage of fodder in the country as mentioned above. The total required quantity of fodder is about 1594 million tonnes consisting of 1025 million tonnes green fodder and 569 million tonnes dry fodder.

Improving cattle fairs

848. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand to develop and modernise the traditional weekly cattle fairs all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds sanctioned for this purpose during 2003-04;

(d) the funds utilised, so far; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to improve such fairs, in order to assist farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.